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2 August 1960



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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Ghana-USSR: [Nkrumah appears ready to negotiate a detailed Soviet offer of large-scale technical and economic assistance. Four senior Ghanaian representatives have gone to Moscow to discuss the offer, which was made in June. The Soviet proposal, which includes a credit to Ghana, possibly amounting to \$280,000,000, was reportedly accepted "in principle" by the Ghanaian cabinet last month. Nkrumah is determined to implement various prestige and development projects for which Ghana's own resources are inadequate, and he is confident that he can contain bloc influence in Ghana.] OK

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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UAR-Tapline: [The dispute between the UAR and the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company (Tapline) over Syrian demands for sharply increased oil transit revenues may come to a head if Tapline halts crude-oil deliveries to Syria's Communist-built

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[redacted] refinery on 3 August as scheduled. Company officials are convinced they must not accede to the Syrian demands despite the risk that Nasir may retaliate and shut down the entire pipeline, which normally delivers daily about 460,000 barrels of Saudi crude oil to Sidon in Lebanon. Tapline is conducting eleventh-hour negotiations with Syrian officials, but prospects for a solution appear slight. [redacted]

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25X1 Libya: King Idris may soon make substantial changes in the Libyan cabinet, although no major foreign policy shift seems likely. OK Prime Minister Kubar, who has held his post since May 1957, has become increasingly frustrated by the King's refusal to delegate to him sufficient power to run the government effectively. Kubar is reported to have submitted his resignation. [redacted]

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Turkey: Leaders of Turkey's provisional regime, in conversations on 25 July with General Norstad, impressed him with what he termed their revolutionary zeal and vigor. General Gursel, in discussing the proposed forced military retirement program, said he believed the plan could be put on a voluntary basis if modest pensions were available. The Turkish leaders made no suggestion to Norstad that they might feel forced to seek the necessary funds for the retirement program from non-Western sources. [redacted]

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Ghana Reported Negotiating Large-Scale Soviet Aid

Ghana's President Nkrumah appears ready to negotiate details of large-scale technical and economic assistance from the Soviet bloc.

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On

27 July three senior representatives of the Nkrumah regime departed for Moscow, where they were to be joined by the chairman of Ghana's Industrial Development Corporation, Ayeh-Kumi, who is a key figure in both the formulation and execution of Ghana's development program.

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[redacted] their mission is to undertake detailed discussions based on a draft assistance agreement offered by the USSR in June and accepted "in principle" by the Ghanaian cabinet last month. The Soviet proposal includes a credit to Ghana, possibly amounting to \$280,000,000, and provides for a mixture of economically sound undertakings together with a number of projects designed to achieve immediate propaganda effect. The USSR would deliver equipment and materials and also furnish technical aid for some 28 different projects. Not included among these, apparently, is the Volta River hydroelectric-aluminum project in which Moscow reportedly also expressed an interest last June.

Nkrumah has been cautious in his dealings with the bloc since Ghana became independent in 1957 and has repeatedly expressed a preference for Western aid--especially in connection with the Volta project, for which Western financing now appears likely. However, his determination to implement rapidly a wide

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[redacted]
and costly variety of prestige and development programs has caused him to become more interested in possible bloc aid. He reportedly stated last month that Soviet economic and technical assistance would not result in any change in the political policies of Ghana or any other African state. [redacted]

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Changes Likely in Libyan Cabinet

King Idris may soon replace Prime Minister Kubar and other cabinet members, although no significant policy shift seems likely. Kubar, who also serves as foreign minister, has been prime minister since May 1957, continuing in that post through two major ministerial shake-ups. He has been essentially pro-Western, though a tough and persistent negotiator on the amount and type of US and British aid to Libya.

In the last few months he has been increasingly frustrated by the King's refusal to delegate to him sufficient power to run the government effectively. Certain of the King's palace advisers have sought to undermine Kubar whenever they could, and the provincial governors, responsible directly to Idris, have exercised authority in matters which clearly belong within the federal government's jurisdiction. Kubar recently told the American and British ambassadors of his intention to ask the King to relieve him of duty, or at least grant him a long holiday abroad. Since then Idris has sent a royal circular letter to all officials criticizing corruption in government--a move which Kubar considers an attack on his administration.

the King has also refused Kubar permission to take leave at this time, and the prime minister has formally submitted his resignation.

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